

# Department of Commerce Growth Management Services Planner's Update

A monthly newsletter to share helpful information related to planning in Washington State

April 2012 – ISSUE 55

*Welcome to the Planner's Update, an electronic newsletter from the Department of Commerce, Growth Management Services. We send this newsletter monthly to share helpful information related to planning in Washington State.*

*Please feel free to send us any comments or ideas for how to make this newsletter more useful. You can also use the link below to provide additional names of planners who might like to subscribe.*

*Please also consider sharing this newsletter with planning commissioners.*



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## SCHEDULES

[Regional Planners Forums](#)  
[Short Course Schedule](#)

## QUICK LINKS

[www.commerce.wa.gov/growth](http://www.commerce.wa.gov/growth)  
[www.washington-apa.org](http://www.washington-apa.org)  
[www.smartgrowth.org](http://www.smartgrowth.org)  
[www.planningpaw.org](http://www.planningpaw.org)  
[www.mrsc.org](http://www.mrsc.org)

### 1. Commerce Broadband Grants Available for Unserved Areas of the State

The Washington State Broadband Office at Commerce has grant funding available to communities to do planning for broadband deployment and adoption. The grant amounts range from \$50,000 to \$100,000 with a total of \$300,000 to be awarded this year.

Please circulate this information widely and if broadband is an issue for your community please feel free to apply!

A press release on the program can be found [here](#).

A grant application overview and the grant application can be found [here](#).  
We will be accepting grant applications until 5 p.m. on May 31, 2012.

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## **2. Preliminary Draft Transportation Guidebook Available for Comment**

Commerce has released all of the preliminary draft chapters of the Transportation Element Guidebook. We will be taking comments on the preliminary draft until May 15.

The new guidebook is a significant rewrite of our transportation guidance and reflects 20 years of changes to the GMA. It also reflects the 20 years of experience local governments have had with implementing their transportation plans. The following are some of the major issues areas:

1. Level of Service: Guidance on setting level of service is significantly rewritten. The new guidance eliminates the singular focus on capacity found in the original document. Instead, the guidance recommends connecting level-of-service to a community's goals and policies and contains a long and varied table of examples different jurisdictions have used to set level of service.
2. Travel Forecasting: This section has been expanded to include greater acknowledgement of the limitations of transportation modeling and how local governments can move forward despite these limitations.
3. Roads and Streets: Recommendations on roads and streets have been expanded to address new transportation topics such as traffic calming, complete streets and low-impact development.
4. Coordination and Consistency: Expanded to address new transportation.
5. Pedestrian and Bicycle Component: New chapter devoted to the pedestrian and bicycle planning requirement.
6. Transportation-Land Use Connections: New chapter addressing the integration of energy, climate change considerations, and land use into transportation planning.

We are taking comments at [Transporation.guidebook@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:Transporation.guidebook@commerce.wa.gov)

Commerce and MRSC will be co-hosting a webinar that will provide a summary of the major elements of the guidebook's recommendations. The webinar will be held:

**Thursday, April 26, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM.**

Reserve your Webinar seat now at: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/824466354>

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar.

### **System Requirements:**

- PC-based attendees require: Windows® 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server
- Macintosh®-based attendees require: Mac OS® X 10.5 or newer

For more information contact: Dave Andersen at (509) 434-4491 or  
[dave.andersen@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:dave.andersen@commerce.wa.gov)

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### 3. The Governor's Smart Communities Awards

Governor Gregoire has invited nominations for outstanding work by local governments and their partners on community planning and development. The awards have been an annual event since 2006.

#### **Request for Nominations for the 2012 Governor's Smart Communities Awards Program - Due May 4, 2012**

For complete information and nomination forms and to see previous year's winners, go to [Governor's Smart Communities website](#)

#### **Nominations are being sought in the following categories:**

1. *Smart Vision Award for Comprehensive Planning* – Local Governments only are invited to submit nominations in this category.
2. *Smart Choices Award for Implementation of a Comprehensive Plan* – For local governments and other public sector agencies, nominations are sought that show how well a local plan is being carried out.
3. *Smart Partnerships Award for Development Project to Implement a Comprehensive Plan.* The private sector is encouraged to enter in this category.

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### 4. Free Technical Assistance Available : Plans, Policies and Practices for Sustainable Communities

Free technical assistance is available to help communities implement sustainability and livability strategies that attract growth, protect the environment, improve public health, facilitate job creation and economic opportunity, and improve overall quality of life. Competitively awarded grant funds from US EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities' [Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program](#) to [Forterra](#) (formerly Cascade Land Conservancy) and the [Building Sustainable Communities Consortium](#) will provide technical assistance to help communities get the kinds of development they want.

Forterra is offering free technical assistance to 4-7 jurisdictions in Washington State this year. The following types of technical assistance are available ([learn more](#)):

- ***Compact infill development***
- ***Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)***
- ***Local Infrastructure Financing***
- ***Complete Streets and Active Transportation***
- ***Healthy Communities***
- ***Citizen Engagement in the Planning Process***

The Building Sustainable Communities Consortium includes [Forterra](#), [Greenbelt Alliance](#), [Envision Minnesota](#) and the [Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance](#). Technical assistance will be provided to communities in four regions throughout the country: Central Puget Sound and the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State, the San Francisco Bay Area in California, the Twin Cities Metro Area and Greater Minnesota and the Greater Boston Area in Massachusetts. The technical assistance will be provided by experienced, locally-based organizations and will help

interested communities implement [the Livability Principles](#) developed by the Partnership for Sustainable Communities.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Any local, regional, state, or tribal government, or agency or subdivision thereof, or community-based organization working in close conjunction with any such division of government located in the Washington State counties of **King, Pierce, Snohomish, Kittitas, Kitsap, Clallam, Jefferson, Mason or Grays Harbor** is eligible to apply for technical assistance from [Forterra](#).

### **How to Apply**

To apply, a letter of interest and an application form must be submitted to Forterra. Please review the [Application Instructions](#) for details on how to submit an application. **Applications must be received by April 30, 2012 at 5pm.** Late applications will not be accepted. Applicants will be notified in May 2012 regarding the acceptance or rejection of their request for technical assistance. The Building Sustainable Communities Consortium reserves the right to reject incomplete applications or applications not meeting the criteria.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Applications will be evaluated based on need, readiness, potential impact and likelihood of success. In order to ensure that this assistance successfully reaches communities representing a range of scales and demographics, including those that may not have the capacity to provide as thorough applications as communities with more resources, 20% of the assistance will be targeted to rural or low resource communities. Please review the full description of the [Selection Criteria](#) for more details.

### **QUESTIONS?**

If you have any questions about this assistance, the selection criteria or application, please email [sustainablecommunities@forterra.org](mailto:sustainablecommunities@forterra.org).

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